

Attorney Docket No.: J3699(C)
Serial No.: 10/518,561
Filed: May 27, 2005
Confirmation No.: 6788

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) ~~A hair-conditioning composition~~ with a pH of 8 or less comprising:

- (a) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more cationic surfactants;
- (b) 0.01% to 10% by weight of one or more fatty alcohols having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms;
- (c) ~~0.001% to 0.01~~ to 5% by weight of a hydrophobically modified clay; and
- (d) water,

wherein the weight ratio of cationic surfactant to fatty alcohol is from 1:1 to 1:10;
and wherein the composition is in the form of a rinse-off hair conditioning composition which is not a water-in-oil emulsion.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) ~~A composition as claimed in Claim 2;~~A composition as claimed in Claim 1 which further comprises one or more hair fibre modifying agents wherein the hair fibre modifying agents are selected from: mineral oils; functionalised oils comprising one or more groups selected from ether, ester, keto, aldehyde, carboxyl, alcohol, diol, polyol, amino, amido, thiol and thioether, and containing 8 to 44 carbon atoms; saccharide polyesters; silicone oils; and triglyceride oils.

Attorney Docket No.: J3699(C)
Serial No.: 10/518,561
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Confirmation No.: 6788

Claim 4 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the hair fibre modifying agent is a hydrocarbon oil.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 that further comprises one or more hair fibre modifying agents ~~wherein the hair fibre modifying agents are selected from: amino acids; urea; methyl amines and their N-oxides; mono-, di- or poly-carboxylic acids; carbohydrates; and polyols.~~

Claim 6 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the hair fibre modifying agent is urea.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more hair fibre modifying agents are present in the composition in an amount of from 0.01% to 2% by weight.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is an expandable three-layer clay comprising at least 75% by weight of the clay of atoms selected from oxygen, silicon and aluminum and/or magnesium.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is a hydrophobically treated bentonite clay.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clay is hydrophobically modified by exchange into the clay of cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, wherein the hydrophobically

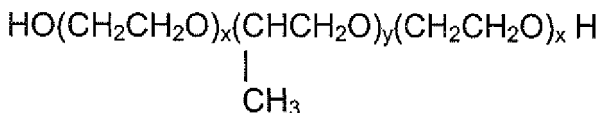
Attorney Docket No.: J3699(C)
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modified clay is produced by an ion exchange process wherein cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms replace at least a portion of a clay's inorganic metal ions.

Claim 11 (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the cations have the formula $N^+R^1R^2R^3R^4$ wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently (C_1 to C_{30}) alkyl or benzyl and, optionally, the alkyl groups may comprise one or more ester ($-OCO-$ or $-COO-$) and/or ether ($-O-$) linkages within the alkyl chain.

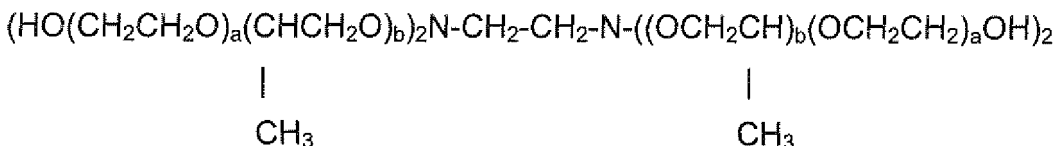
Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises from 0.01% to 5% by weight of a silicone.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises a block copolymer with a mean molecular weight of 1000 unified atomic mass units or more, comprising polyethyleneoxide and polypropyleneoxide blocks, selected from the group consisting of (i) poloxamers according to formula I:



wherein the mean value of y is from 18 to 60 and the mean value x is from 7 to 140 such that the mean value of the ratio x/y is from 0.4 to 3.0.

and (ii) poloxamines according to formula II:



wherein the mean value of a is 2 or more and the mean value of b is 2 or more.

Attorney Docket No.: J3699(C)
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Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method of treating hair which comprises applying to the hair a ~~composition of claim 1~~ rinse-off conditioning composition according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) ~~Use as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is a clay which is hydrophobically modified by exchange into the clay of cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms.~~ A method as described in Claim 14, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is produced by an ion exchange process wherein cations comprising one or more alkyl groups containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms replace at least a portion of a clay's inorganic metal ions.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) ~~Use as claimed in claim 15, wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is used together with~~ A method as described in claim 14 wherein the rinse-off hair conditioning composition further comprises a hydrocarbon oil or urea.

Claim 19 (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the rinse-off hair conditioning composition is applied to clean hair, after shampooing, while the hair is still wet.

Claim 20 (New) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydrophobically modified clay is present in the composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 3% by weight.